

NORTHFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Minutes of the meeting on November 12, 2015

The meeting was called to order by Pam Knox at 6:36 pm.

- I. ROLL CALL:** Present were Commissioners Pam Knox, Nathaniel Miller, Ruth Ruttenberg, Christine Barnes, Russ Barrett, Jane Pekol, Leslie Matthews, and Laura Hill-Eubanks. Also attending were Collin O'Neil, Nathan Ranker, and Laura Ranker.
- II. SET/ADJUST AGENDA:**
- III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (scheduled):** Collin O'Neil is the director of the Shaw Center at Norwich U. Discussion about the signage and trails and working on joint projects.
- IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** October 14, 2015 minutes approved 8-0-0
- V. DISCUSSION**

- a. **AVCC Conference:** Christine, Ruth, Russ, and Laura attended the Association of Vermont Conservation Commissions annual meeting. This year's meeting was "Celebrating 100 years of Town Forests." CC members discussed the workshops.

One workshop focused on conservation easements. Pam and Laura will contact Liza Walker at Vermont Land Trust to discuss conservation easements and the possibility of working on conserving land in Northfield.

- b. **Town Forest Plan** – Contract signing, billing, Signage: Leslie will review and approve the contract with Arrowwood Environmental for the natural resources survey in the Town Forest. The contract has to be signed by the town.

Russ met with Michael and his assistant from Arrowwood and showed them around the forest.

Nathan Ranker presented his proposal for his Eagle Scout project on signage and trail marking in the town forest. Pam is authorized to sign off on the proposal. Nathan will then get approval by the troop and the council. Nathan will look for volunteers and donations to help out. Collin will collaborate with Nathan on the signage. Town will be contacted for their approval of signs in the forest.

Discussed possible grants. Trail grants and Buildings and Services grants are available. Collin provided some information on the grants. Ruth would like to pursue the grants and NCC agreed. Russ has some previous grant applications that could be used.

- c. **Button Up Workshop:** Jane has organized a Button Up weatherization workshop for November 17. NCC will help work on getting the information out to the town.
- d. **Community Solar Forum:** Jane sent out information about a forum on community solar on Nov 21 in Randolph.
- e. **Other:** Christine told the group about a workshop that she attended about the new green stormwater system on Central St in Northfield. CVRPC gave the presentation and it was very well done. The system is up and working well. More projects are planned.

The 4th graders would like to work on conservation posters again in the spring. Sarah Snow would like a NCC member to help with a talk at the library.

NCC will consider a snow shoe trip in the forest for Winter Carnival.

VI. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (SCHEDULED):

VII. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Laura Hill-Eubanks, Northfield Conservation Commission.

These minutes are subject to changes and approval at the next regular meeting, but are substantially correct.